

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	North Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Slate Quarry in Wahyŏn-ni, Hwanghae-pukto	DATE DISTR.	3 November 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. A slate deposit area in Wahyŏn-ni, Hwanghae-pukto (N 37-09, E 127-36) (CS7612), is divided into three quarries. The main office and one quarry is at BT702513 and the other two quarries are at BT705514 and BT29524.¹
2. Blasting with dynamite to expose slate layers is carried on five times daily. The slate is then removed and cut into slabs approximately 25 centimeters (cm) long, 20 cm wide and 3 cm thick which are currently being used as a substitute for tile roofing. About 200 slabs are taken daily from the quarry site at BT729524.² Four trucks carrying about 50 slabs each were seen leaving the quarry site daily bound for Mulgae railway station (BT665501) and P'yongsan railway station (BT729438).
3. About 10 clerks were employed at the main office, while about 150 persons worked in the quarry at BT705514 and 100 in the quarry at BT729524. Office clerks were paid 900 won monthly, laborers 1000 won and mining engineers 1,700 won.
4. Clerks and laborers doing light work received a daily food ration of 700 grams, persons engaged in heavy labor received 800 grams. The ration consisted of half rice and half cereals. The only side dish available was a soup made of bean paste and cuttle-fish and flavored with soy sauce.

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Comments

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1. The North Korean government calls the slate quarrying center a slate factory, whereas in reality it is merely an open mine pit.
2. Since April 1955 the slate factory has been operating at less than full capacity because of outdated operational methods and an acute shortage of blasting materials.

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